

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 28, 2002 with claims 1-19. Dependent claim 20 has since been added. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 18 and 19 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-18 and 20 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

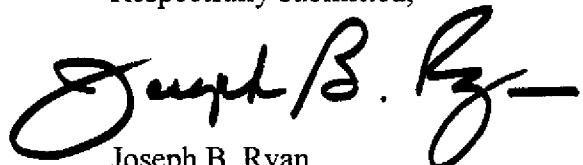
Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming non-statutory subject matter.

In this response, Applicants traverse the §101 rejection, amend the claims, and respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §101 rejection and respectfully submit that “an article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium for use in conjunction with a processor, the medium storing one or more software programs” that, when executed, perform one or more steps producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result constitute statutory subject matter. See, e.g., In re Beauregard, 53 F.3d 1583; 35 USPQ2d 1383 (Fed. Cir. 1995); In re Lowry, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Notwithstanding the traversal, applicants have amended independent claim 19 without prejudice.

Accordingly, claims 1-20 as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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